



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

TTUTA ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION

(REMARKS)

Message By

Dr the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly

Minister of Education

Friday 13th October, 2023

SALUTATIONS:

- **Mr Martin Lum Kin**, President – Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA)
- **Specially invited guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning,

I am pleased to bring greetings today at the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA) Annual District Convention. This gathering holds special significance as we come together under the theme, "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage." It is a theme that underscores the critical importance of educators in shaping the future of our nation and the world.

Our teachers are the cornerstone of our education system, their dedication, passion, and expertise serving as the driving force behind our students' success. However, we recognize the challenges we face, not only locally but on a global scale, in meeting the ever-increasing demand for quality education, especially given the diverse learning needs of today.

Teacher shortages have been exacerbated by the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as educators adapted to the uncharted territory and continued delivering education to our

students, the pandemic experience shed light on the need for updated teaching expertise, particularly teachers well-versed in digital pedagogy, to effectively address the following:

Professional Development: The Ministry of Education remains steadfast in its commitment to teacher induction, recognizing its pivotal role in ensuring the preparedness of our educators. As a testament to this commitment, earlier this year 200 teachers graduated from the 2022/2023 Teacher Induction Training conducted in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). The focus was on enhancing teacher performance and efficiency.

It has been specifically designed to support the growth and professional development of new teachers in both ECCE, Primary and Secondary Schools under the Ministry of Education.

In May to July 2023 the Ministry successfully conducted the training of approximately 400 teachers in Restorative Practices. This initiative is aimed at addressing the challenges of indiscipline in our schools, underlining our dedication to fostering a positive and supportive learning atmosphere for both students and educators.

Re-engaging for Success: This ongoing project prioritizes our focus on 106 schools within our educational system. As part of this initiative, dedicated efforts were made to equip teachers with specialized training in remedial Mathematics, English Language Arts, and English Language Arts Writing, further strengthening our commitment to student success and academic excellence. School councilors to assist teachers in classroom implementation are also being recruited.

Improving Operational efficiencies: Through a combination of digital and traditional strategies, tremendous effort is being placed on improving operational efficiencies as it relates to teacher HR functions. From the upgrades in IHRIS, ongoing digitalization of teachers records

to the facilitation of mass medicals to speed up the process for appointment, the MOE continues to collaborate with Government Ministries and agencies to increase the efficiency of our Human Resource Systems.

As you deliberate today at this convention, let us remember that the future of our nation's education system literally lies in our hands. The work we do today will shape the leaders, innovators, and citizens of tomorrow. It is a weighty responsibility, but it is one that we, as educators and policymakers, must embrace wholeheartedly.

I once again commend TTUTA for its unwavering commitment to the transformation of education in Trinidad and Tobago. Together, we will achieve the vision of modern, relevant, quality, equitable education for all.

I thank you, and may God bless us all.